

MCNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

www.mcnair.net

BANK OF AMERICA TOWER
1301 GERVAIS STREET, 11th FLOOR
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

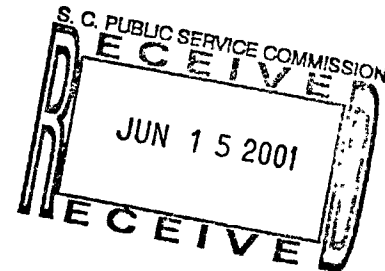
POST OFFICE BOX 11390
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
TELEPHONE (803)799-9800
FACSIMILE (803)376-2219

2001-284-C

June 15, 2001

HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Gary E. Walsh
Executive Director
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29210



Re: BellSouth's SS7 Tariff

Dear Mr. Walsh:

Enclosed herewith is the original and 10 copies of the Petition to Intervene and Objection to the above referenced being submitted on behalf of the South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC"). By copy of this letter, I am herewith serving counsel for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

I have enclosed an additional copy to be date stamped/filed and returned to me by the Courier.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

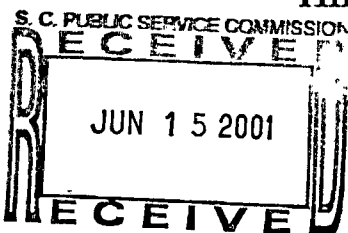
Very truly yours,

M. John Bowen, Jr.
M. John Bowen, Jr.

MJBjr:bw
Enclosures
Cc: Caroline N. Watson, Esquire

Columbia: 661108

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA**



DOCKET NO.:

2001-284-C

In Re:

BELLSOUTH'S SS7 Tariff)

PETITION TO INTERVENE

AND

OBJECTION TO

BELLSOUTH

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S

SS7 TARIFF

In response to the filing by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") for approval of a proposed tariff relating to SS7 services requested to become effective June 15, 2001, ("the Tariff"), the South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC") submits the within Petition to Intervene in this proceeding. In support of its Petition, SCTC would respectfully show unto this honorable Commission that:

1. SCTC is a coalition of local exchange telephone companies organized and doing business under the laws of the State of South Carolina. SCTC's members are telephone companies or telephone cooperatives subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
2. SCTC seeks to intervene in this proceeding with full rights to participate as a party of record insofar as its interests may appear.
3. SCTC's individual member companies provide local exchange telephone service within their respective service areas. SCTC's position in this matter is that of the Tariff is not appropriate and is not in the public interest and therefore should not be allowed to go into effect by this Commission. The Tariff, as currently drafted, would potentially impact each of the SCTC member companies and, therefore, the SCTC has an interest in this proceeding.

4. The Tariff appears to apply to access related to SS7 service and adds a per message Transaction Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") and Integrated Switched Digital Network User Part ("ISUP") charge of \$.000035 and \$.000123 respectively and monthly recurring charges, in addition to the normal recurring monthly charge already assessed on the interstate side. SS7 is an inherent function of the telephone network in South Carolina and the entire country. SS7 provides signaling functionality for call routing and completion as well as access to various databases and it is used in network management. SS7 is more efficient than the obsolete Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) signaling in that it allows faster dialing or "quick call set-up" because it checks to make sure the line is open before seizing the trunk. SS7 messages are used on virtually every single phone call. The only instance that SCTC is aware that an SS7 message might not be used is where DTMF is still used. The only remaining use of DTMF is for certain E911 trunks, otherwise all calls use SS7. In one phone call there are normally 5 ISUP messages and one TCAP message. ISUP messages are for call acknowledgment, call set-up, and call processing. A TCAP message is used for caller id, 800 or toll-free calls, and Caller Name And Number database ("CNAM"). There is not a per message charge for SS7.

5. The Tariff would apply to everyone – ILEC's, CLEC's, IXC's, wireless carriers, and third party SS7 providers.

6. SCTC objects to the Tariff because (a) these charges would apply to local traffic, and, thus, mandates usage charges which currently do not apply; (b) it contains no corresponding reduction to balance the increase in revenue that BellSouth will receive if the Tariff is allowed to go into effect; (c) this Tariff requires that a PIU/PLU be developed for originating and terminating usage and dictates the methodology for determining the PIU/PLU. This would

require SCTC companies and/or their affiliates to invest considerable resources and network infrastructure to develop these PIU/PLU factors; (d) BellSouth is already compensated for TCAP messages through its existing rates for 800 service queries, LIDB queries, CNAM queries, and LNP queries; (e) if this tariff goes into effect, then every ILEC, CLEC, IXC, Wireless carrier and third party SS7 provider will be required to implement new rates to recover this “new” per message charge for SS7; (f) BellSouth is already recovering its costs through local switching charges and through agreements; and (g) this tariff will have an impact on all ILECs, CLECs, IXCs, Wireless carriers and third party SS7 providers which will result in all affected carriers raising their traffic sensitive rates. The ripple effect of this tariff filing if allowed to go into effect is that every ILEC, CLEC, IXC, wireless carrier, and third party SS7 provider will raise rates to recover this new charge from either other carriers or from the consumer and will also restructure their rates to charge BellSouth the SS7 message costs that each of these carriers also incur to complete calls. All carriers, not just BellSouth, incur cost to generate SS7 messages internally, transmit them to other carriers and to receive them from other carriers during the routing and completion of local and interexchange calls.

7. SCTC’s rights and interests as well as its customers will be substantially affected by decisions made by the Commission regarding the Tariff.

WHEREFORE, the SCTC respectfully requests that:

- (i.) this matter be assigned a docket number and set for hearing;
- (ii.) SCTC be granted leave to intervene in the proposed June 15, 2001 BellSouth SS7 Tariff as its interest might appear;
- (iii.) the BellSouth SS7 Tariff be suspended pending the hearing;

(iv.) SCTC be allowed to investigate with the Commission and the Staff the ramifications of the BellSouth SS7 Tariff, and, ultimately, the BellSouth SS7 Tariff be denied or modified to take into consideration the improper aspects thereof; and

(v). for such other, further, general, specific and more equitable relief as may be just and proper under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

M. John Bowen, Jr.
M. Margaret Fox
McNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A.
Post Office Box 11390
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(803) 799-9800
jbowen@mcnair.net

By: _____

Attorneys for Intervenor South Carolina
Telephone Coalition

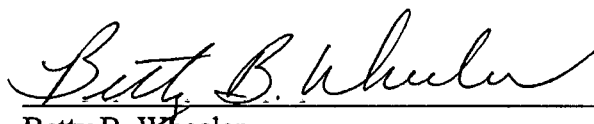
June 15, 2001

Columbia, South Carolina

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Betty B. Wheeler, do hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing upon the following individual(s) in this cause by placing same in the U.S. Mail, first-class postage prepaid, addressed as follows, this 15th day of June, 2001.

Caroline N. Watson, Esquire
General Counsel – South Carolina
BellSouth Communications, Inc.
1600 Williams Street
Suite 5200
Columbia, South Carolina 29201


Betty B. Wheeler

Columbia, South Carolina